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YOUTH DISILLUSIONMENT
A TOP YMCA CONCERN

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Disillusionment with the slow rate at which social inequities are being ironed out is one of the most aggravating causes of tension in today's teenagers and young adults.

Our failure to stamp out prejudice, discrimination, poverty and war indicates our mastery of technology far surpasses what we have learned about 'people problems', insists R. G. Rogers, assistant general secretary of the Montreal YMCA.

As a result, many young people cannot see a relationship between themselves and society, he told a Citizens Forum held Saturday, Oct. 28, 1967, in the Royal Bank Auditorium, Place Ville Marie.

"They often rebel, or opt out, or become apathetic," he said. The net effect--loss of precious human resources and increasing fragmentation of society.

He noted, for example, that major leadership in our society comes from only some three per cent of the population.

"This isn't a very good score, and it is likely to get worse-- and at a time when we need every scrap of leadership we can get," he deplored.

"Motivation and energy in young people need to find a constructive direction. The lack of directional unity in Canada today is creating an overwhelming tension which few young people are able to grasp or cope with," he said.

"We need to capture the creative imagination of the young. If we don't, our society will decay and crumble just like the Roman empire," he warned.

"All of the human and democratic attitudes and values which are our heritage will fall into disuse because they will not belong to the coming generation."